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he seems' says Comines, 'no longer to have had his understanding so clear.' In truth he was always ambitious, brutal, cruel (Dinant, Liège, Nesle), and little scrupulous in the choice of means (affairs of Péronne, of Guelders); but in the first part of his life he liked to parade political probity and chivalric sentiments, and in fact his treachery was not excessive for the age, his cruelty and his hate gratified themselves indeed only against his foes (the burghers of the towns, the King of France), or perhaps in cases where he had in view an evident advantage or where the victim to some extent deserved his fate (Louis XI., Adolf of Guelders). After 1473 his hate is yet more savage (Étienne de Hagenbach at Bel-fort, the garrison at Grandson), and his knavery is profitless. One could then believe that he did evil for evil's sake, as if out of a sort of vindictiveness toward mankind in general; it is, in fact, that he is avenging himself for having been deceived, not only by his enemies, like Louis XI., but by his friends (the Emperor at Treves, the King of England at Picquigny, Sigismund at Constance, etc.), and that, on the other hand, his schemes have so lifted him above the earth that he loses footing, that he is attacked by a veritable madness, *la folie des grandeurs*."

Nay, M. Toutey will not even grant him military genius. Despite his personal bravery and his skill as a drill-sergeant, "the truth is that he had the same military conceptions as his ancestor, King John the Good: to march against the foe and fight him face to face—*mais on n'en était plus là à la fin du 15^e siècle*" (p. 324, note). Nor was he a statesman, but only an ambitious prince, haunted with memories of the Middle Ages, who still confused the idea of the state with that of property and believed that nation could be added to nation like field to field; while Louis of France, the Swiss cantons, the Alsatian towns, the Duke of Lorraine, "represent a principle essentially modern, that whereby every group of men having the same customs, the same aspirations, has a right to live and develop by itself, according to its own tastes and genius." Verily, this is to see them with modern eyes.

The book abounds in terse summaries and happy general views. Two maps and an appendix of documents add to its usefulness. Alas, the volume has no index.

GEORGE L. BURR.

The Italian Renaissance in England. Studies. By LEWIS EINSTEIN. [Columbia University Studies in Comparative Literature.] (New York: The Columbia University Press; The Macmillan Co., Agents. 1902. Pp. 420.)

THIS work is the latest issue in a series which includes a history of literary criticism in the Renaissance, together with volumes on the classical heritage of the Middle Ages and Spanish literature in the England of the Tudors. The present volume, like its predecessors, deals not with the technicalities of literary form, but with wider aspects of intellectual life and expression. The exact scope of the work is perhaps not at once apparent from the title, owing to the ambiguity of the term Renaissance.

In reality the work is an attempt to estimate the influence of Italy upon England along all lines, excepting the diplomatic and political, from the beginning of the fifteenth century to the death of Elizabeth. The justification for this attempt Mr. Einstein finds in the fact that, in spite of detached studies upon various phases of the subject, hitherto "no serious effort has been made to discover a common impulse running through the Italian influences in England: to find at the university, at court, and among the people at large, in different and even in opposite directions, the results of one and the same great movement."

In the development of his theme, the author traces three stages to the movement. The first was the purely scholarly and scientific stage, centering in the University of Oxford, and lasting until the end of the fifteenth century. The second stage was that in which Italian culture grew at court; it covers especially the first half of the sixteenth century. The third, covering the second half of the sixteenth century, saw the extension of the movement among the people at large, while at the same time there arose a national and puritanical reaction which ultimately put an end to the dominance of the Italian spirit. As is implied in the title, the volume is essentially a collection of studies. In Part I. these are entitled "The Scholar," "The Courtier," "The Traveller," and "The Italian Danger." Part II. contains brief accounts of the leading Italians in England in this period—churchmen, artists, diplomats, merchants, and others. Here are also included chapters on Italian political and historical ideas in England and the Italian influence in English poetry, while in an appendix is added an interesting account of English Catholics at Rome. The first part claims to concern itself chiefly "with the Englishman as affected by Italy . . . and later with the movement against Italian influence"; the second "treats rather of the Italians in England." As will be seen from the summary of contents above, this distinction is not altogether maintained, and influences and persons are dealt with more or less indiscriminately in both parts. Indeed, a certain lack of definition, a looseness of organization which causes confusion and needless repetition, is one of the faults of the book, betraying its origin in the researches of the industrious but unpracticed graduate student.

A large part of the book is made up, perhaps necessarily, of somewhat disjointed biographical fragments. In the chapter dealing with the Scholar, we start with Duke Humphrey of Gloucester, trace the influence of the individual Oxonians, Grey, Free, Flemming, Gunthorpe, and Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester—all students under or connected with Guarino Veronese—until the Renaissance movement is definitely established at Oxford by Grocyn, Linacre, and Latimer. Chapter II. deals largely with the courtesy books of Della Casas and Castiglione, which voiced and modified the social aspirations and ideals of the age. In every department of courtly life,—in manners, horsemanship, falconry, fencing, the etiquette of the duel, masks and music, etc.,—Italian influence is traced. Chapter VI., on the Italian merchant in England, con-

tains a summary of an interesting contract for the establishment of a mercantile and banking house in London, dated 1446. Cosimo de' Medici and Giovanni Benci are the parties of the first part, and their London agent or partner is of the second. Another document, taken like this one from the Florentine archives, contains instructions to guide the agent, and affords interesting glimpses into the methods of business and wide ramifications of the Italian banking houses.

In the main Mr. Einstein has succeeded in accomplishing what he undertook and has presented us with a useful summary of his subject. The book is provided with an index, some excellent illustrations in photogravure, and is comparatively free from errors of fact or print. A few slips, however, should be noted. The pope of the Renaissance was Paul II., not Paul I. (p. 23). The characterization of Rizzio as "prime minister of Scotland" (p. 76) is not altogether accurate. Finally the statement that Sebastian Cabot "commanded the first English ship to visit the West Indies and South America" (p. 278) would scarcely be made by any one conversant with the Cabot literature of the last twenty years.

SAMUEL B. HARDING.

Mary Queen of Scots and Who Wrote the Casket Letters? By SAMUEL COWAN. (New York: James Pott and Co. 1901. Two vols., pp. viii, 387; 407.)

THE strife which raged around Mary Stuart did not cease with her life; she lives on, an immortal subject of dispute between her ardent, uncompromising admirers and champions, and those who fail either to be dazzled by her brightness or to mistake tragic misfortune endured with marvelous spirit and steadfastness for snow-white innocence. Between the extremes of complete, unquestioning apology and of utter condemnation there is, however, ample room for sympathetic, though open-minded and unbiased discussion. For even those who approach the subject with the absolutely frank, honest and unfettered design to discover the truth will probably find it impossible to agree fully upon a solution of the more important historical riddles of her career. So that, when much remains really and honestly obscure and capable of various interpretation, it is scarcely wonderful that partizanship has run so high, considering that the question involves so much that appeals not only to British politics, patriotism, and religion, but to universal sympathies, which have naturally ever gone out to the almost incredibly tragic life of a beautiful, lovable, high-spirited, if guilty queen.

The latest knight to enter the lists against all who dare whisper aught against the Queen of Scots is Mr. Cowan, himself a Scotsman. His two handsome volumes are an uncompromising defense, a popular biography, based ostensibly upon a study of good historical materials both original and second-hand, but giving, it is to be feared, decided if not exclusive preference to evidence which tells in Mary's favor. In fact the book is hardly to be taken seriously as a real contribution to history,